

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date: August 9, 2016**

**Contact: Nancy Leddy 203-239-5321 ext. 505**

### **NORTH HAVEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE ACTION COUNCIL TAKING BACK UNWANTED MEDICATION October 22, 2016 AT FIRE HEADQUARTERS**

NORTH HAVEN, CT- On **October 22, 2016** from **10:00 am** to **2:00 pm** the North Haven Substance Abuse Action Council will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to **Fire Headquarters** at 11 Broadway, North Haven, CT. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse on the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines-flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash-both potential safety and health hazards. Turning in your unused prescription drugs keeps our water clean. Reports of trace amounts of prescription medicines being found in drinking water supplies across the country have prompted public interest in how medications are disposed of. Proper disposal of medication is a significant way to lower the risk of ground/water contamination. For questions, please contact Nancy Leddy, Youth Services Administrator, 203-239-5321 ext. 505.